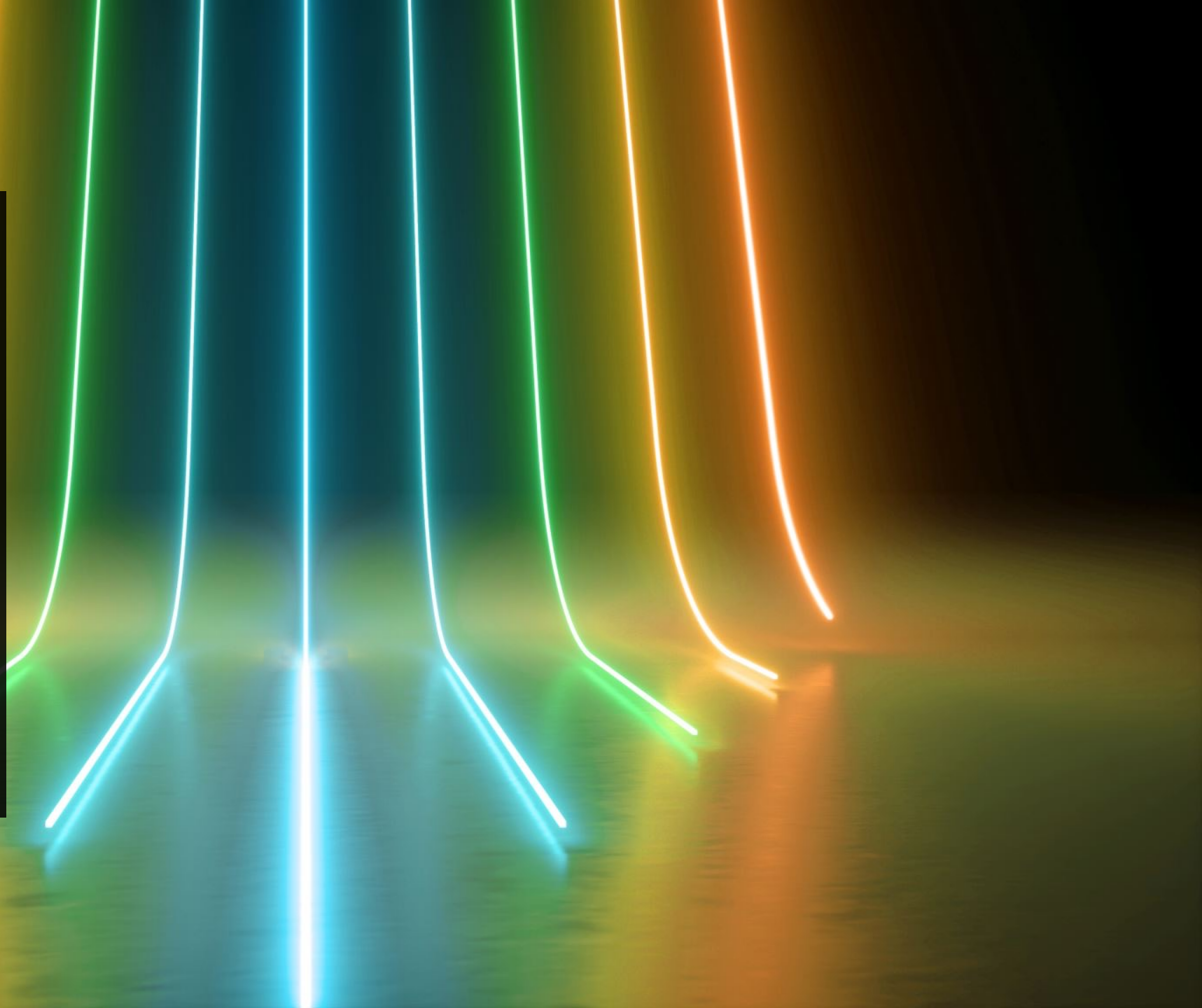


WHAT'S NEXT FOR DIVISION I WRESTLING?

An updated look at
potential realignment



The “current” state of affairs:

- For 2022-23, there were 79 schools with Division I wrestling programs, 77 of them are championship eligible.
- The seven conferences that serve as qualifying conferences, with 2022-23 qualifying teams are:
 - Atlantic Coast (6)
 - Big 12 (13 – 4 core, 9 affiliates)
 - Big Ten (14)
 - EIWA (17 – single-sport conference)
 - MAC (13 – 5 core, 8 affiliates)
 - Pac-12 (6 – 3 core, 3 affiliates)
 - SoCon (3 core, 6 affiliates)
- Lindenwood and Queens University of Charlotte are in their transitional period in reclassifying from NCAA Division II.
- Morgan State restarts competition in 2023-24.

IN AUGUST OF
2022, I
OUTLINED A
RENOVATION
FOR COLLEGE
WRESTLING.

WHAT'S
HAPPENED
SINCE?

- **Moves that impact wrestling**

- **Campbell** University left the big south for the colonial athletic association, the caa has since rebranded itself as the coastal athletic association.



- Big 12 expansion sucked Colorado back into the league, while the big ten poached Oregon and Washington from the pac-12. in the hours following that move, Arizona, **Arizona state** and Utah announced they would be joining the big 12.



Who is in limbo?

- Now what?
- The remnants of the pac-12 were Stanford, Oregon state, California and Washington state.
- Stanford and Oregon state are two of the three core members of the pac-12 wrestling conference.
- Their all-sports conference future is unclear, from a wrestling standpoint, it's also very unclear.



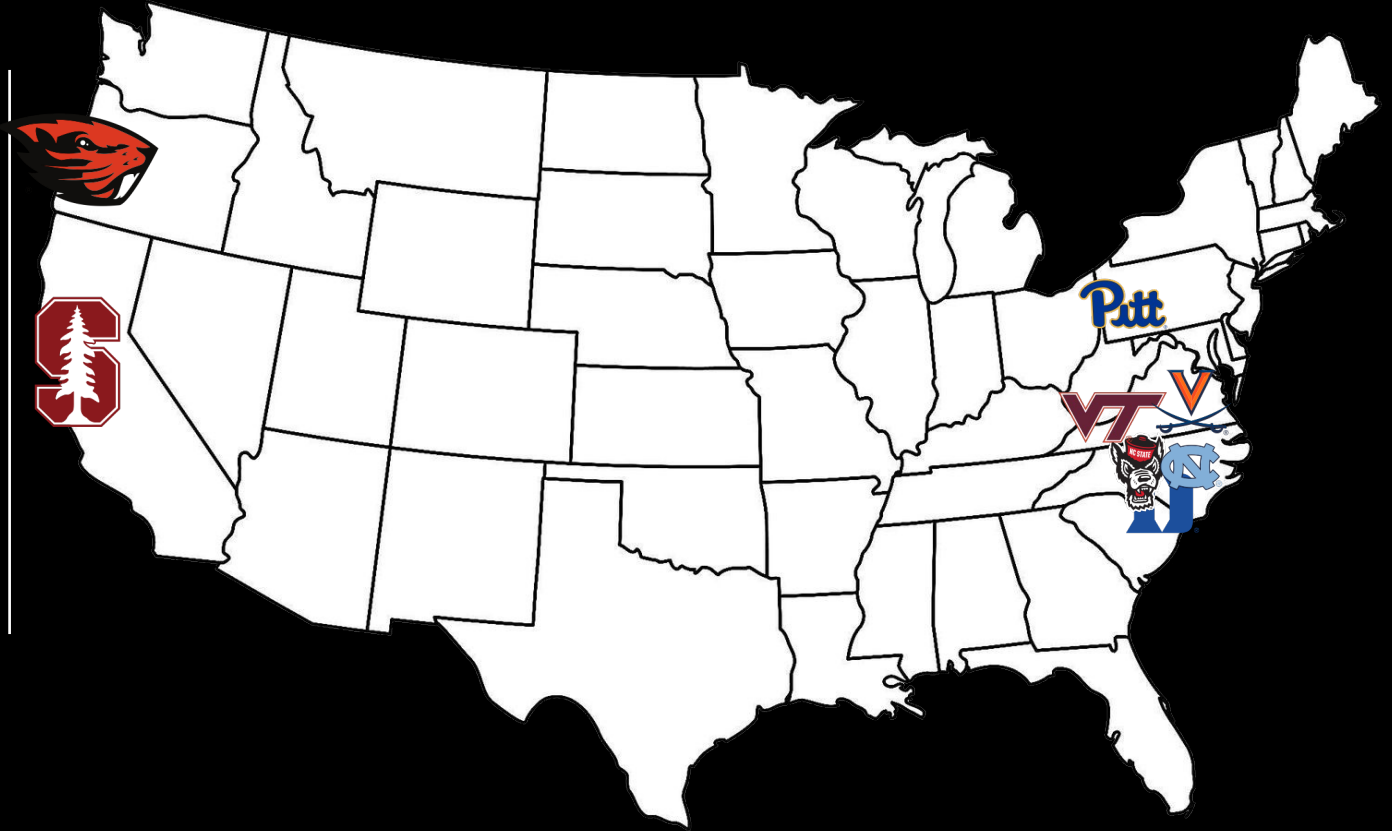
So for 2024-25, what could D1 wrestling look like?

- The Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) is at six sponsoring schools with wrestling. There are rumors on social media that the acc is looking at the remaining four pac-12 schools as potential candidates, despite none of the four schools being anywhere near the Atlantic coast.
- Let's entertain that alignment for a second.

ACC absorbs the remaining Pac-12.

- Wrestling Schools (8)
- Duke
- Virginia
- Virginia Tech
- North Carolina
- NC State
- Pittsburgh
- Oregon State
- Stanford

Geographic locations are not exact.



Is Stanford to
the Big Ten+ a
more likely
scenario?

The Big Ten grabs Cal and Stanford to complete a 20-team super conference, complete with six schools on the Pacific Coast.




This would group Stanford into that mix and still leave Oregon State wrestling searching for a home.

OTHER SPORTS CONSIDERATIONS:

Stanford is the nation's top school in producing Olympians.

Football *COULD* survive as an independent.

Options being floated out include Stanford football going independent and its other sports looking for a more geographic home. Academically, there aren't too many options on the west coast.



A move to the Mountain West is clearly a geographic option (along with Oregon State), but a West Coast Conference (non-football Division I) conference might be an option, but it's definitely NOT lucrative in any form.

Exploring what happens if Stanford and Cal go Big Ten+

Highly unlikely that the remaining five (with Cal) would restart their wrestling programs.

- **Wrestling Schools (15)**
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Michigan State
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- Northwestern
- Ohio State
- Penn State
- Purdue
- Rutgers
- Stanford
- Wisconsin

Alternate Angle: Pac-12 merges with Mountain West

- **Wrestling Schools (4)**
 - Air Force
 - Oregon State
 - Stanford
 - Wyoming
-
- Could the Mountain West/Pac-12 sponsor wrestling with four core schools?
 - Would the Mountain West/Pac-12 retain affiliates **Cal Poly**, **CSU Bakersfield** and **Little Rock**?
 - The Mountain West has never sponsored wrestling. This also hinges on what name a hypothetical Pac-12/MWC merger would have.

Impact on the Big 12 Conference

- **Wrestling Schools (14)**
- Air Force
- **Arizona State**
- California Baptist
- **Iowa State**
- Missouri
- North Dakota State
- Northern Colorado
- Northern Iowa
- (Oklahoma)
- **Oklahoma State**
- South Dakota State
- Utah Valley
- **West Virginia**
- Wyoming



Impact on the Big 12 Conference

- It's currently not known what Oklahoma plans to do with sports that aren't in the Southeastern Conference (SEC). After Missouri left for the SEC over a decade ago, wrestling found a home in the Mid-American Conference until the Big 12 let them back in as an affiliate.
- Arizona State would give the Big 12 four core schools (with Iowa State, Oklahoma State, West Virginia) with the sport. Is carrying 10 affiliates equitable to both the core schools?

Options in the Big 12 with Stanford and Oregon State.



Take them both (16)

Air Force
Arizona State
California Baptist
Iowa State
Missouri
North Dakota State
Northern Colorado
Northern Iowa
(Oklahoma)
Oklahoma State
Oregon State
Stanford
South Dakota State
Utah Valley
West Virginia
Wyoming

Take Oregon State (15)

(if Stanford goes Big Ten+)

Air Force
Arizona State
California Baptist
Iowa State
Missouri
North Dakota State
Northern Colorado
Northern Iowa
(Oklahoma)
Oklahoma State
Oregon State
South Dakota State
Utah Valley
West Virginia
Wyoming

WHY NOT CREATE A NEW QUALIFYING CONFERENCE?



The **MOUNTAIN PACIFIC SPORTS FEDERATION** is a conference that sponsors 11 sports where all its members have a primary all-sports conference elsewhere.

When it comes to competitive equity and like-funded schools, wrestling is all over the place. Half-funded schools competing with Power 5 programs is a band-aid for the sport's growth.

Of the schools that are currently in the Pac-12 and Big 12 for wrestling, five are currently affiliated with the MPSF in at least one sport, while four others were former members.

EQUITABLE QUALIFYING CONFERENCES



BIG 12 (7/8)

Arizona State
Iowa State
Missouri
(Oklahoma)
Oklahoma State
Oregon State
Stanford*
West Virginia



MPSF (10)

Air Force
California Baptist
Cal Poly
CSU Bakersfield
North Dakota State
Northern Colorado
Northern Iowa
South Dakota State
Utah Valley
Wyoming

Wait, didn't we
already do that
with the WWC?



MPSF (10)

Air Force

California Baptist

Cal Poly

CSU Bakersfield

North Dakota State

Northern Colorado

Northern Iowa

South Dakota State

Utah Valley

Wyoming

Looking at the allocations for 2022-23, this configuration would have had numerous bids allocated to the NCAA tournament.

FULL BREAKOUT
LATER

MPSF (10)

Air Force
California Baptist
Cal Poly
CSU Bakersfield
North Dakota State
Northern Colorado
Northern Iowa
South Dakota State
Utah Valley
Wyoming

**THIS IS 31
PRE-ALLOCATIONS.**

**FROM 1993-2014, THE
MOST THE WEST
REGION/WWC EVER
RECEIVED WAS**

23 BIDS

What about Little
Rock?

Hold that
thought.



Remember the
CAA?

It used to be
known as the
Colonial Athletic
Association.

It's "Coastal" as of
July.



Re-starting CAA
Wrestling isn't that
difficult.

The CAA needs **THREE**
schools to sponsor the
sport.

Wait, they already do!

- **Wrestling Schools (3)**
 - Campbell (SoCon)
 - Drexel (EIWA)
 - Hofstra (EIWA)
- **Former Wrestling Members in other conferences**
 - Binghamton (EIWA)
 - George Mason (MAC)
 - Rider (MAC)
 - Sacred Heart (EIWA)

COASTAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The CAA can
get to seven
balanced
schools pretty
quickly.

This would
leave the EIWA
with 12 schools.

- **PROJECTED CONFIGURATION**

- Binghamton (EIWA)
- Campbell (SoCon)
- Drexel (EIWA)
- Hofstra (EIWA)
- LIU (EIWA)
- Rider (MAC)
- Sacred Heart (EIWA)

COASTAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

What about
George Mason?

Hold that
thought.



What's the EIWA
look like now?



Ivy League (6)

Brown
Columbia
Cornell
Harvard
Penn
Princeton

Patriot League (5)

American
Army West Point
Bucknell
Lehigh
Navy

Division III (1)

Franklin & Marshall

If the Ivy creates its own qualifier, it would leave the five Patriot League schools and F&M.

The EIWA allows redshirting. The Patriot League itself does not.

Ivy League (6)

Brown
Columbia
Cornell
Harvard
Penn
Princeton

Patriot League (5)

American
Army West Point
Bucknell
Lehigh
Navy

Division III (1)

Franklin & Marshall



Simple: Keep the EIWA name on the Patriot League + F&M configuration. OR Patriot League sponsors and EIWA can exist as an in-season tournament in the Northeast.

So who's left?
That's where it
gets a little tricky.

Potential Conference 1

Bellarmino
Davidson
Gardner-Webb
George Mason
Morgan State
Presbyterian
Queens

Potential Conference 2

Appalachian State
Chattanooga
Lindenwood
Little Rock
SIUE
The Citadel
VMI



The SoCon isn't what
it used to be from a
membership
perspective.

Current SoCon Membership with wrestling

Chattanooga

The Citadel

VMI

Unlike the Big 12, the SoCon didn't kick Davidson out of the wrestling configuration when they moved to the Atlantic 10 or when Appalachian State moved to the Sun Belt.

Using a combined
conference
model like one
that was used in
Division II with
the SAC and
Conference
Carolinias ...

The SoVC Wrestling Conference (7)

Appalachian State
Chattanooga
Lindenwood
Little Rock
SIUE
The Citadel
VMI



None of the remaining schools are in conferences with at least three wrestling members.

Who steps up and sponsors the sport?

Remaining Schools

Bellarmino (ASUN)

Queens (ASUN)

Davidson (Atlantic 10)

George Mason (Atlantic 10)

Morgan State (MEAC)

Gardner-Webb (Big South)

Presbyterian (Big South)

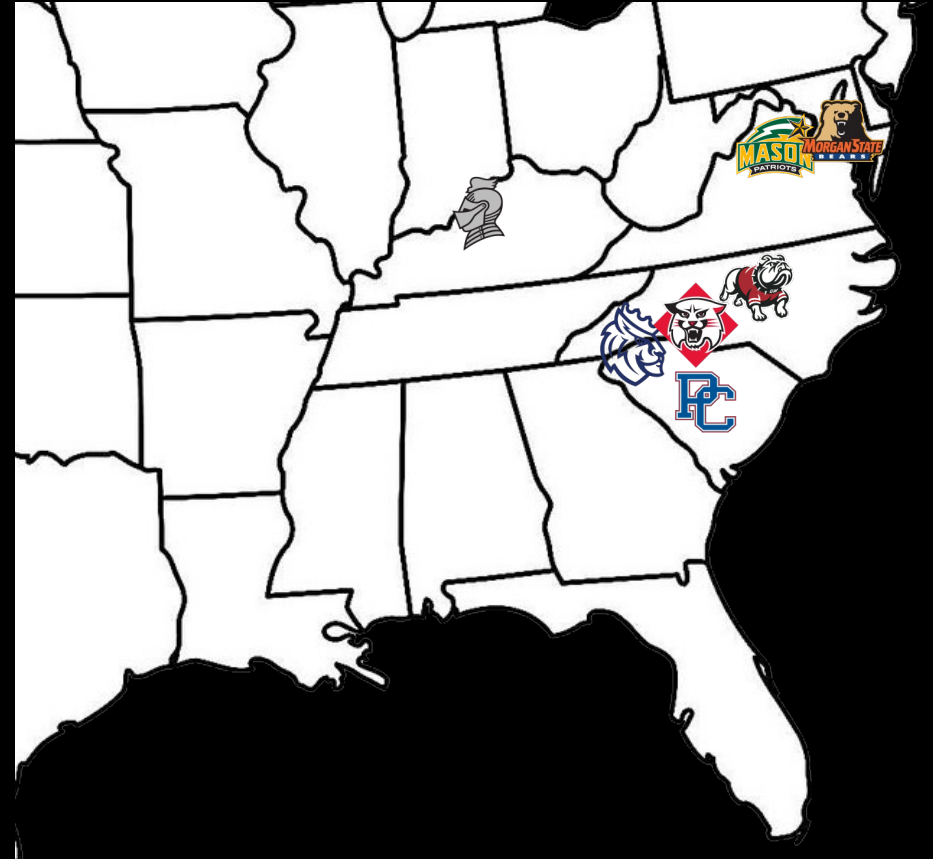


For argument's sake, let's go with the ASUN/A10 taking the banner.



The ASUN-Atlantic 10 Wrestling Conference (7)

Bellarmino
Davidson
Gardner-Webb
George Mason
Morgan State
Presbyterian
Queens



MAC-TION!

The MAC would lose three teams as affiliates under this realignment proposal, but still remain at a solid 10 members.

- **Wrestling Core Schools (5)**

- Buffalo
- Central Michigan
- Kent State
- Northern Illinois
- Ohio

- **Affiliates (5, old EWL)**

- Bloomsburg
- Clarion
- Cleveland State
- Edinboro
- Lock Haven

BENEFITS

- SPORT EXPANDS FROM 7 QUALIFYING CONFERENCES TO AT LEAST 9
(10 IF THERE IS AN IVY/EIWA SPLIT)
- EQUITABLE ACCESS FOR SCHOOLS OF SIMILAR FUNDING
- MUCH MORE REGIONAL-BASED TRAVEL VS. LARGE GEOGRAPHIC FOOTPRINT
- SMALLER CONFERENCES = MORE SCHEDULE FLEXIBILITY WITH OTHER CONFERENCES FOR RPI CROSSOVER.
- SMALLER CONFERENCES = BETTER BUILT-IN DUAL MEET SCHEDULE



KNOW
THIS

THE INCREASE IN QUALIFIERS FROM
MID-MAJOR SCHOOLS IS DIRECTLY
RELATED TO THE ACTIONS OF THE
COACHING STAFF AND THE SCHOOL'S
SUPPORT FOR THE SPORT, NOT THE
LOGO ON THE BACK OF THE SINGLET.

EARN
BIDS,
DON'T
STEAL
THEM

2022-23 PRE-ALLOCATIONS

CONFERENCE	125	133	141	149	157	165	174	184	197	285	TOTAL
ACC (6)	2	3	4	3	3	3	3	5	4	3	33
BIG 12 (13)	6	6	7	7	7	8	6	4	6	8	65
BIG TEN (14)	9	9	9	9	10	8	7	9	9	9	88
EIWA (17)	6	5	5	2	3	5	4	4	5	6	45
MAC (13)	2	1	2	5	4	1	4	2	1	1	23
PAC-12 (6)	3	3	1	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	19
SOCON (8*)	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	12
Pre-Allocations	29	29	29	29	29	28	28	26	29	29	285
At-Large	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	7	4	4	45

ALLOCATIONS BASED ON 2023 DATA

2022-23 PRE-ALLOCATIONS

MODEL 1	125	133	141	149	157	165	174	184	197	285	Grand Total
ASUN (7)	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	11
ACC (6)	1	3	4	2	3	3	3	5	4	3	31
Big 12 (7)	5	5	4	6	3	6	4	3	4	6	46
Big Ten (15)	9	9	9	10	11	9	8	9	9	9	92
CAA (7)	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	2	16
EIWA (12)	6	5	4	2	3	3	3	1	2	2	31
MAC (10)	2	1	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	1	17
MPSF (10)	3	3	4	2	4	3	3	2	4	3	31
SoCon/OVC (7)	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
Grand Total	29	29	29	29	29	29	28	27	29	28	286

MODEL 1

OREGON STATE TO BIG 12, STANFORD TO BIG TEN

ALLOCATIONS BASED ON 2023 DATA

2022-23 PRE-ALLOCATIONS

MODEL 2	125	133	141	149	157	165	174	184	197	285	Grand Total
ASUN (7)	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	11
ACC (6)	1	3	4	2	3	3	3	5	4	3	31
Big 12 (8)	6	5	4	7	4	7	5	3	4	6	51
Big Ten (14)	8	9	9	9	10	8	7	9	9	9	87
CAA (7)	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	2	16
EIWA (12)	6	5	4	2	3	3	3	1	2	2	31
MAC (10)	2	1	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	1	17
MPSF (10)	3	3	4	2	4	3	3	2	4	3	31
SoCon/OVC (7)	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
Grand Total	29	29	29	29	29	29	28	27	29	28	286

MODEL 2
OREGON STATE, STANFORD TO BIG 12

ALLOCATIONS BASED ON 2023 DATA

2022-23 PRE-ALLOCATIONS

NewCONF	125	133	141	149	157	165	174	184	197	285	Grand Total
ASUN (7)	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	11
ACC (6)	1	3	4	2	3	3	3	5	4	3	31
Big 12 (7)	4	4	4	6	3	5	3	2	3	6	40
Big Ten (15)	9	9	9	10	11	9	8	9	9	9	92
CAA (7)	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	2	16
EIWA (12)	6	5	4	2	3	3	3	1	2	2	31
MAC (10)	2	1	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	1	17
MPSF (10)	4	4	4	2	4	4	4	3	5	3	37
SoCon/OVC (7)	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
Grand Total	29	29	29	29	29	29	28	27	29	28	286

MODEL 3

OREGON STATE TO MPSF, STANFORD TO BIG TEN+

ACC	Big Ten	EIWA (& IVY)	SOVC	Big 12	MPSF	MAC	CAA	ASUN
Duke	Illinois	Brown	Lindenwood	Arizona State	Air Force	Buffalo	Drexel	George Mason
NC State	Indiana	Columbia	Little Rock	Iowa State	Northern Colorado	Central Michigan	Hofstra	Morgan State
North Carolina	Iowa	Cornell	SIUE	Missouri	Northern Iowa	Cleveland State	Campbell	Gardner-Webb
Pittsburgh	Maryland	Harvard	Chattanooga	Oklahoma	North Dakota State	Kent State	LIU	Presbyterian
Virginia	Michigan	Penn	The Citadel	Oklahoma State	South Dakota State	Northern Illinois	Sacred Heart	Bellarmino
Virginia Tech	Michigan State	Princeton	VMI	West Virginia	Wyoming	Ohio	Binghamton	Queens
	Minnesota		Appalachian State	Oregon State	Cal Poly	Bloomsburg	Rider	Davidson
	Nebraska	American			California Baptist	Clarion		
	Northwestern	Army West Point			CSU Bakersfield	Edinboro		
	Ohio State	Bucknell			Utah Valley	Lock Haven		
	Penn State	Franklin & Marshall						
	Purdue	Lehigh						
	Rutgers	Navy						
	Wisconsin							
	Stanford							

THE FINAL LOOK